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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 91 (see A/48/717, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (g) was considered at the 41st and 48th meetings, on 26 November and 13 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.41 and 48).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.37

2. At the 41st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human settlements" (A/C.2/48/L.37).

3. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution, and orally revised it as follows:

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* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/48/717 and addenda.

(a) In the second line of the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "human settlement aspects" were inserted after the words "the Strategy and";

(b) At the beginning of operative paragraph 2, the word "Concurs" was replaced with the words "Also endorses";

(c) In the penultimate line of the same paragraph, the phrase "and 14/20 on the preparations for the Habitat II Conference" was inserted after the words "United Nations system";

(d) In the penultimate line of operative paragraph 3, the words "and direction" were inserted after the word "management";

(e) Operative paragraph 4 was deleted and replaced with the following text:

> "Request the Secretary-General, in the context of ensuring high-level leadership to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through distinct and separate management and direction as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162, taking into account relevant recommendations on the ongoing restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as it prepares for the challenges of human settlement development and management in the twenty-first century, as well as preparations for Habitat II, to give full consideration to the views expressed by Member States regarding the leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);"

(f) In the penultimate line of operative paragraph 5, the phrase "with financial and human resources, and developed" was deleted;

(g) In the penultimate and last lines, of the same paragraph, the words "and ensure a more effective presence at the national and regional levels" were deleted and replaced with the words "maximizing the effectiveness of national and regional operations";

(h) At the beginning of operative paragraph 6, the word "Requests" was replaced with the word "Urges"; and in the penultimate line, before the word "preparations" the word "adequate" replaced the word "the".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.37, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

B. Draft resolution contained in resolution 14/1 of the Commission on Human Settlements (A/48/8, annex I.A.1)

5. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained in resolution 14/1 of the Commission on Human Settlements, contained in the report of the Commission on the work of its fourteenth session (A/48/8) 1/ (see para. 7, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/63

6. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/63 of 30 July 1993 (see para. 7, draft resolution III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 2/

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international level for the implementation of the Strategy,

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1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/43/8/Add.1).

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the implementation of the Strategy and human settlement aspects of Agenda 21 3/ and in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Noting with appreciation that the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre, in line with the objectives and responsibilities set out in resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements high on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding on the links among people, settlements, environment and development,

Noting with concern that, in many developing countries, the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their populations, in both urban and rural areas,

Convinced that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development that is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run, and that widespread civil conflicts and wars have left many cities and villages totally destroyed,

Reaffirming the importance of resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recalling resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the views expressed by Member States regarding the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its fourteenth session; 4/

2. Also endorses with resolutions 14/7 on the strengthening of regional activities and 14/19 on the role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the United Nations system and 14/20 on the

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3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

4/ A/48/8 and Add.1.

preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), adopted by the Commission on 5 May 1993; 5/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are kept under distinct and separate management and direction in accordance with their specific mandates and activities;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of ensuring high-level leadership to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through distinct and separate management and direction as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162, taking into account relevant recommendations on the ongoing restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as it prepares for the challenges of human settlement development and management in the twenty-first century, as well as preparations for Habitat II, to give full consideration to the views expressed by Member States regarding the leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that in the restructuring of the United Nations system, the Centre is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements, and that its institutional capabilities are strengthened at its headquarters, maximizing the effectiveness of national and regional operations;

6. Urges all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute and participate actively in the preparations for Habitat II;

7. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in adequate preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phrase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Noting resolution 49/2 of 29 April 1993 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 6/

5/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 16 (E/1993/36), chap. IV.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, by which it proclaimed the period 1985-1994 as the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984 on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, in which it urged all appropriate international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute effectively to the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second half of the Decade, and General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991, in which the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1991/75,

Reaffirming the importance of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that it may not be possible to implement the regional action programme effectively and efficiently without adequate funds, and noting the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in this regard,

1. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to keep under review the level of funding to be provided for the implementation of the regional action programme, so that phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific will have a greater impact;

2. Requests bilateral donors to take note of General Assembly decision 46/453, so as to ensure that the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992, will be implemented effectively;

3. Invites all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy,

Recalling also its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which it affirmed that a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy should be conducted at the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the recognition of the renewed commitment to the Global Strategy expressed in Agenda 21, 7/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Bearing in mind the high potentials of enabling shelter strategies, which rely on labour-intensive and locally based technologies, to generate employment, demand for local products and savings and thereby promote economic development and poverty reduction,

Bearing in mind also that enabling strategies typically include activities such as institutional reforms, revision of building codes and regulations, and steps aimed at facilitating the access of the poor to critical resources, especially land and finance, which can best be implemented through partnership arrangements among the public, private and community sectors, and the empowerment of the poor and of women,

Convinced that the concept of enabling strategies synthesizes the lessons learned in the development of living conditions since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, and that wide commitment to the implementation of such strategies represents the only viable way of reversing the deteriorating trend of those conditions,

Recognizing that, since the adoption of the Global Strategy, additional weight has been given to and further insights have been reached into several essential aspects of enabling shelter strategies, such as the requirement of gender-sensitivity and their potentials for contributing to environmentally sustainable development,

Aware of the pivotal role of adequate information in the proper diagnosis of the outcomes, opportunities and constraints of current housing processes, and in assessing the impact of policies, strategies and programmes thereon,

Having considered the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 8/

Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments have initiated or reformulated national shelter strategies, based on the principles of enabling all actors in the shelter sector, and that many other Governments have initiated action on particular components of a national shelter strategy and, further, that a number of Governments have commenced a process for applying selected

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7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference.

8/ A/48/8/Add.1.

indicators for monitoring the progress and efficiency of their national shelter strategies,

Noting also with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international levels for the implementation of the Global Strategy,

1. Commends Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter for the Year 2000;

2. Urges all Governments to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and to review them regularly with a view to ensuring the improvement of living conditions, particularly of the rural and urban poor, women and the homeless;

3. Recommends that all Governments adopt a cost-effective system for monitoring progress of the national shelter strategy and adopt, as far as is feasible, guidelines for monitoring national shelter strategies and the application of shelter sector performance indicators, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations, when assessing the performance of the shelter sector, and publicize them within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day, and also submit them to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in order to enable that officer to prepare the reports on the implementation of the Global Strategy for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements;

4. Urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21; 7/

5. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy;

6. Urges the international community to strengthen its support to national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

7. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide increased financial and other support to Governments on the basis of an approach consistent with the Global Strategy for the implementation of the Global Strategy's Plan of Action;

8. Adopts the Plan of Action for 1994-1995 for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 9/ and urges all Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action.

9/ A/48/8/Add.1, chap. 3.